

Executive Registry  
76-8004/1

AMHERST COLLEGE  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002

The President

413-542-2234  
413-542-2000

August 2, 1976

George Bush, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. George Bush:

My slowness in responding to you is no measure of my pleasure with your personal and thoughtful response to my letter of inquiry.

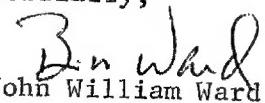
I look forward to the response from "the appropriate office" to the question concerning paid or unpaid contact between the Central Intelligence Agency and any faculty member, student, or employee of Amherst College.

I have deliberated for some time whether to respond at length, and have decided not to. First, I truly do not wish to impose myself upon you. I was not being simply polite when I said your responsibilities are heavy, and I would not wish to add to them unduly. Second, as a friend once said to me when we were talking together about one's political responsibility, my first responsibility is to see to it that the institution at which I have the pleasure of being President is well-run. So, I would prefer to wait upon an answer to my inquiry before rhetorical speculation.

There are distinctions properly to be made, and you make some. There are also differences, I suspect, between us on how a scholar or an institution of learning may best serve American society. If I were to pursue those differences, it would best be done by way of particular instances, so I will resist the impulse and wait to see if there are instances which involve Amherst College which are germane to my concerns.

Again, however, I truly thank you for your letter.

Cordially,

  
John William Ward